

Claims

Sub A4

1. A method of transmitting a video image including an object of interest comprising capturing a sequence of images in which the object of interest occupies a fraction of each image, tracking the object of interest by selecting and extracting a region of each image including the object of interest, and coding only the selected region of each captured image.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising stabilising the object of interest within the extracted region.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the extracted region is selected so that the object of interest is centred within the extracted region.
4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 comprising transmitting the coded region, and decoding and displaying the selected region.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the extracted region is displayed in a format comprising fewer pixels than the format of the captured image.

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9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein only the selected region is coded and the rest of the captured image is discarded.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the captured image is in CIF format and the selected region is in QCIF format.

5 13. A method as claimed in any of claims 8 to 12 wherein the object of interest is stabilised within the selected region.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the selected region is such so that the object of interest is centred in the selected region.

15. A method of processing a video image including an object of interest comprising selecting a region of the image including the object of interest and which is greater than the area occupied by the object of interest by a predetermined degree, and coding said region.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the selected region.

17. A method as claimed in claim 15 or claim 16 comprising scaling the selected region to a predetermined size.

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18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the predetermined size corresponds to a known format.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the captured image is in CIF
5 format and the extracted region is scaled to QCIF format.

20. A method of transmitting video images comprising processing video
images according to a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19,
transmitting the encoded image data, and receiving, decoding and displaying
10 the image data.

21. A method of operating a video camera comprising arranging the
camera so that an object of interest occupies a fraction of the area of the
captured image, tracking movement of the object of interest within the
captured image, selecting and extracting a region of interest around the object
15 of interest and displaying only the extracted part of the captured image.

22. An image processing circuit comprising means for extracting a region
of each image including an object of interest and coding only the selected
20 region of each captured image.

5 24. An image processing circuit comprising means for selecting a region of the image such that the object of interest occupies a predetermined percentage of the region, and for coding said region.

26. A video image processing device comprising a camera and a circuit as claimed in any one of claims 21 to 25.

28. Apparatus for processing video images substantially as hereinbefore described as an embodiment with reference to the respective accompanying drawings.

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